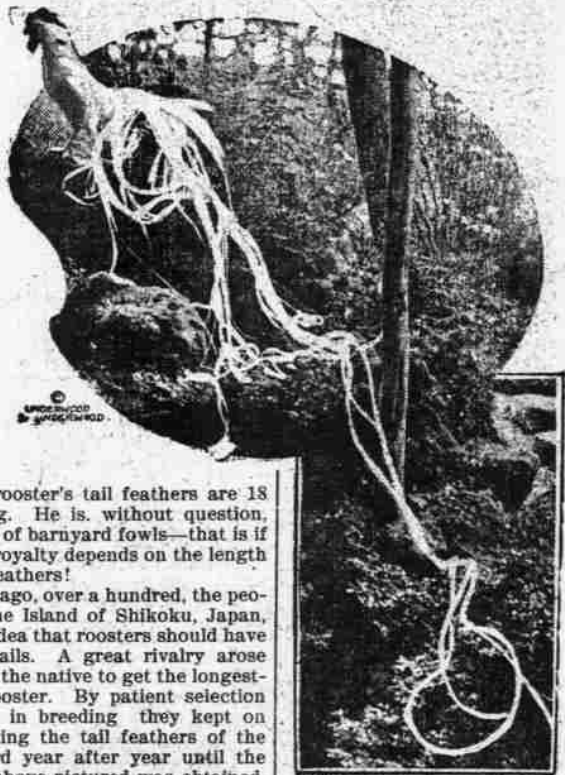


QUAINT-CUSTOMS OF WORLD'S QUEER PEOPLE THE HISTORY OF LONG-TAILED ROOSTERS



This rooster's tail feathers are 18 feet long. He is, without question, the king of barnyard fowls—that is if rooster royalty depends on the length of tail feathers!

Years ago, over a hundred, the people of the Island of Shikoku, Japan, got the idea that roosters should have longer tails. A great rivalry arose between the native to get the longest-tailed rooster. By patient selection of fowls in breeding they kept on lengthening the tail feathers of the male bird year after year until the rooster above pictured was obtained.

Naturally, in breeding roosters with such long tails, it is necessary to confine them in very close quarters, so that it will be impossible for the feathers being molted or to wear out. The fowl is, therefore, placed in a narrow cage, so narrow that he cannot turn around in it.

Once every day or two he is taken out and allowed to stretch his legs, under the careful surveillance of an attendant. To keep his plumage in

good shape, from time to time he is given a bath and carefully dried after it.

Through this careful and well-planned routine the cock lives out its allotted span of life of eight or nine years.

The rooster seen in the photograph is the property of Matsuzawa, a dealer in antiques at the famous mountain resort, Miyanoshita, on the Island of Shikoku.